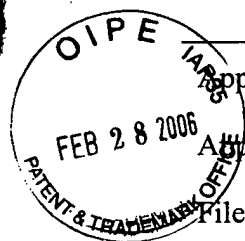


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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE



Applicant: Michael Slivka et al.

Application No.: 10/709,795

Filed: May 28, 2004

Entitled: ANCHORING SYSTEM AND METHOD
FOR CORRECTING SPINAL
DEFORMITIES

Docket No.: 101896-252 (DEP5319)

Group Art Unit: 3733

Examiner: Richard R. Shaffer

Certificate of Mailing (37 C.F.R. 1.8(a))

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Services as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: MS Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on the date set forth below.

February 23, 2006

By:

Lisa Adams
Lisa Adams, Reg. No: 44,238
Attorney for Applicant(s)

Date of Signature and Mail Deposit

MS Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RESPONSE

Dear Sir:

Applicants submit this paper in response to the Office Action dated December 1, 2005.

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2 of this paper.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 3 of this paper.

Amendments to the Drawings begin on page 9 of this paper and include attached replacement sheets.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 10 of this paper.

An **Appendix** including replacement drawing figures is attached following page 12 of this paper.